

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, and 11-13 are pending in the application. New claim 13 has been added.

Embodiment of the Present Invention

In an embodiment of the present invention, a plurality of projections is provided on an outer wall surface and in a lower end portion of the wall surface protecting member for point-contacting the inner wall surface of the chamber and the chamber step portion in order to suppress heat transfer. Especially, the projections provided in the lower end portion of the wall surface protecting member extend along an axial direction of the wall surface protecting member. Due to this configuration, it is easy to settle (or place) the wall surface protecting member on the chamber step portion by point contact.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 4-6, and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai (U.S. Patent 5,874,012) in view of Kyoko et al. (JP 08-185997). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action dated January 4, 2008, Kanai does not disclose or suggest that the wall surface protecting member has a plurality of projections.

Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Kyoko reference and alleges that it discloses that “the wall surface protecting member (7b, adhesion proof cylinder) has a plurality of projections (7c, overhanging partial on upper bed part of adhesion proof cylinder and it is obvious to have

the same overhanging partial at the lower bed part too), provided on an outer wall surface and in a lower end portion of the wall surface protecting member, for contacting, by point contact, the inner wall surface of the chamber and the chamber step portion.”

First of all, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that “it is obvious to have the same overhanging partial at the lower bed part too” at least for the following reasons.

Kyoko states, in paragraph [0025], that:

For hanging, four protrusions 4c that extend inside toward the plasma generating chamber wall 4 are provided, and correspondingly, as shown in Fig. 7, four support protrusions 7c that extend outwardly from an upper end portion of the adhesion proof cylinder 7 are formed. As an attaching method, as shown in Fig. 8, the adhesion proof cylinder 7 is lifted in an upward direction into the plasma generating chamber 3, and the cylinder 7 is rotated such that the protrusions 7c is placed on the protrusions 4c.

In other words, the support protrusions 7c are provided at an upper end portion of the cylinder 7 so that the cylinder can be hung by engaging with the protrusions 4c.

If the support protrusions 7c are also provided at the lower end of the cylinder 7, protrusions 4c must also be provided at a lower portion of the chamber wall 4, which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Kyoko reference. Further, even if such support protrusions 7c and the protrusions 4c are provided, the cylinder 7 would no longer be hung inside the chamber 3 but would merely be placed on the protrusions 4c, which is not intended by the Kyoko reference.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to “have the same overhanging partial at the lower bed part too,” as alleged by the Examiner.

Moreover, even assuming that the Examiner’s allegations are reasonable, which Applicants do not admit, Kyoko merely discloses a plurality of overhanging partial (7c;

projections) that extends in a radial direction of the adhesion proof cylinder, and not “along an axial direction of the wall surface protecting member,” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, even assuming that Kanai and Kyoko can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, Kanai in view of Kyoko fails to disclose or suggest “the plurality of projections provided in the lower end portion of the wall surface protecting member extends along an axial direction of the wall surface protecting member,” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 4-6 and 11-12, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Kyoko, and further in view of Shibazaki (JP 2002-222767). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Kyoko, and further in view of Kazuo et al. (JP 07-283143). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9, variously dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claim

Claim 13, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Support for the feature recited in claim 13 is disclosed at least in Figs. 2(a), 4, 5, and 6 of the present application.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion


Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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